

FRS NEWSLETTER



Dear FRS-Holland Friend!

Summer is almost over and #19 of the FRS Newsletter is lying in front of you. Looking at the statistics of the past few years, conditions should dramatically improve in the upcoming weeks. And that must be good news for any SWL addict who has experienced rather bad times in the Summer period, in particular on 48 metres. Issue 20, the final 1998 edition, should be out mid-December, before the X-Mas holiday season. What else can I say but "a lot of reading pleasure"?

FRS NEWS CORNER

FRS-Holland Activities

Following the June 21st 1998 broadcast, FRS-Holland was inactive during the Summer period. Propagation was rather poor, so it was too bad being off air in July and August. In actual fact conditions on the 21st were quite good and FRS-H was putting out a fair good signal on 6240kHz-48 metres. That day the German Service was reintroduced. Following a 15 year silence, Marc Jones who did his last show on FRS in August 1982 (!) returned on the station. Response from some of the German listeners was very positive, the German Service was missed for almost 12 months. Next Sunday September 27th FRS-H will take to the airwaves between 07.52 and 11.00 UTC. Plus include FRS Magazine, the Short SW Parade, Onbeat (new) and of course FRS Goes DX.

During the shows we will once again mention the names of a few FRS listeners. That means: each presenter mentions in his show two names, one in the first part and one in the last part using the slogan "Right now also (name listener) is listening to FRS-Holland". This item is not part of the DX-Show! Any of those six persons hearing his name on air in the above slogan, must send a letter telling us at what time his name was mentioned. He can win himself a free radio cassette recording making a choice from the comprehensive FRS Sales Productions catalogue. Since 1980 FRS celebrates its annual birthday in October when conditions are stable and favourable. This year we hope to celebrate our 18th birthday on Sun October 18th or perhaps even the 28th! Check it out yourself, at the very moment we are unable to provide you with much detailed info regarding that broadcast. It could be on 48 or perhaps also on 41 metres around 7450 kHz. Last minute info about date times will be given via the internet, on our website, via newsgroups and by Email via our comprehensive SW addressbook! So if you are on the internet and you want to be part of our address book, simply send an Email, it's totally free.

October 18th a selection of birthday programmes will be aired via the facilities of the SWRS. This will take place between 12.00-14.00 CET on the 19th 25mb and 7500 41mb. At the same time our full programming is hopefully running on 48 metres but as you will understand this is not in parallel with the above mentioned frequencies.

FRS-Holland from now on via SWRS

In the last weekend of September, FRS-Holland made its debut via the transmissions of the SWRS. The organisation is aiming numerous stations on various frequencies. For more info regarding this interesting project, check out the SW News section in this edition. Sat/Sun September 19th/20 a 30 minute Peter Vanbreggen Show was heard on 11470 kHz USB. In particular the Sun 09.30-10.00 UTC show was received in fine quality in Western Europe. What's the deal about these SWRS rays? Basically FRS rays are recording 30 minute shows from time to time (not a fixed schedule) which are aired via the SWRS facilities on one of their frequencies (primarily 11470 kHz). These shows are aired more than once over a period of a few weeks. After a while these shows are replaced by fresh ones. Any of these pres - which will by the way be aired among those of colleague free radio SW stations - can be heard on a 1st, 2nd or 4th Sunday. On the 3rd Sun FRS-Holland will be heard slightly longer, namely for 60 minutes. This will be the case November 15th and December 20th 12.00-13.00 CET. There is a chance that a regular DX-Show will be aired on 3rd Sundays as part of the 60 minute programme. Important to know is that on 3rd Sundays the SWRS ray service can be heard not only on 11470 but also on 41 and most likely 48. For the latest schedules we refer to their informative website <<http://eleuterioSWRS>>.

Wild lies to point out that the SWRS broadcasts are in addition to our 'normal' 3 or 4 hour 3rd Sun broadcasts on 48 metres! It's a good opportunity to be on air more often, even when it concerns rather short programmes!

Jingle Mania

In the June edition we mentioned the introduction of a set of new jingles concerning German, Swedish (!) and English jingles. In the main time we have found out the whereabouts of our premier US voice-over. It took us months to find him but now we have succeeded, soon a MiniDisc will be posted from the US to Box 2727 in Herten. At the same time we hope to do a recording session with our German man, the Swedish ones will be soon finished. Joop ter Zees latest sophisticated recording software in connection with professional production elements and music beds should guarantee somewhat cool stuff coming up real soon!

New FRS-Holland logo

After lengthy preparation, we can proudly announce that our new logo is definitely finished. We will introduce it in October, it will be used on our new stickers and QSL cards, info sheets and discourse on our stationery. So make sure you drop us a line following the 18th birthday celebrations... It will be more than worth while.

FRS-Holland's website

> www.gronit.nl/home/frs45/home.htm <. Now you can also reach it via > <http://eleuterioSWRS> < Email address: <frs45@gronit.nl> or > frs45@gronit.nl < Postal address: P.O.Box 2727 6248 ZS Herten The Netherlands.

SW FREE RADIO SCENE

ICONDITONS/GENERAL

In this edition we cover the news of the period mid-June-mid-September 1998 emphasizing on the developments in the past few weeks! Conditions on 48 metres have been (very) poor in the Summer period, the same old story. Positive exception: propagation on 76 metres has been quite good lately! Many Dutch stations have been active on 76 metres not only during the weekend but also during normal weekdays. For example Tuesday August 4th and Wednesday August 26th when no less than 5 Dutchies (on both days) were on air. Most remarkable newslens are perhaps the raids on the Farnes and Radio Free London celebrating 30 years of illegal broadcasts back in August. Perhaps also the fact that a number of stations are nowadays to be heard below 6200 instead of above... See the newslens!

(E) August 23rd RADIO ACTION was heard testing on 6291, in preparation of its Level 48 output filter that morning on 6270 kHz. Signal quality was good. Address is P.O.Box 20 in 7038 ZH Zeeland, the Netherlands.

(E) RADIO ALFA LIMA INTERNATIONAL (R. AL Int.) was heard during several occasions on 48 metres in July & August. Most times are cleared out on traps around 6270 kHz. Signal strength is mostly good, the station makes use of a very impressive antenna tower. To mention a few dates: Sun July 5th & August 16th 6270, July 19th Sun & August 8th 6275. Address is P.O.Box 653, 7900 AB Hoorwegen in the Netherlands.

(E) ALTERNATIVE RADIO from the Netherlands was heard on 6193 Sun Sept. 13th. No further info available.

(E) RADIO ANTONY is yet another (new?) Dutch station which was heard August 16th on 6250 kHz. Address?

(E) The new address of RADIO ARGUS is 9 The Halls, London N11 2EA, UK. Email: <radioargus@360.com> or <radioargus@chfmail.com>.

(E) RADIO ARMADA from the Netherlands can be reached via P.O.Box 8, 8150 AA Lomdonind.

(E) RADIO BARNBOND is a branch Dutch station which was heard August 5th on 6270 kHz. Also on August 30th, Sept. 6th & Sept. 12th. August was noted with nice signals on 6275. Mostly times are taking place early in the morning (05.30 UTC). Power is 45W (one 60W), same address as Radio Alfa Lima.

(E) German RADIO BENELUX (!) was heard during several occasions on 76, 48 and 57 metres making it one of Germany's most active stations. Sun July 12th 6260, Sun July 26th 5810, August 8th 3905 (Level 48/BeneLux), 5816 Sun August 9th (25W) August 15th Sun 6210.



[C] **RADIO BLUE STAR** is currently one of Holland's most active stations on SW. Over the past few months the station was regularly heard on 48 & 76 metres. During most broadcasts strong signals were produced. In the 48 mhz 6250 is the main frequency a mention to him took place starting Sat August 1st ending the next morning. Listeners were invited to call the station. August 18th SW RFLUE Star testing on 11355 with good results, in particular in remote areas. The station is also active on 76 metres. Address: Box 1104, 8001 BC Zwolle, the Netherlands. Quite recently the station is on the Internet: <http://stationbluestar>, Email: <bluestar@holland.nl>. Latest news: Sun Sept. 20th Blue Star tested a new 150W rig on 6185 kHz. Signal strength was very good, modulation was ok. Next weekend a new 200W 76 mhz rig will be tested.

[C] **RADIO BOOMERANG** was heard testing on 6285 Sat July 11th. Modulation was poor. Add is P.O.Box 73, 7160 AD Nede in the Netherlands.

[C] Formerly **RADIO BORDERLANDER** (Gronspoor) was picked on Tuesday April 14th 1998. In the mean time the station is back. Already in June there were reports about a station calling itself Tubesradio Radio. In the mean time it appears the correct name is **Gumekradio** Radio which was frequently heard both on 48 & 76 metres. Add: (S) When writing include 2 IRC or 2 US\$.

[C] **RADIO BRIGITTE** is a station changing frequency quite often. In August/Aug the station was on 6257, 6258 and also on 76mhz channels such as 6575 (F) and 6540. A test on the latter took place Fri Sept. 11th. Modulation quality remains poor. Address is Box 10, 7094 ZG Rouwen in the Netherlands.

[C] Sun July 12th **BRITAIN RADIO INT.** (4) was heard over the 330W JWR test with a three hour special show celebrating its 18th birthday. Congratulations to Roger Davis and the rest of the crew! In the past few years BRI used its own frequency and was heard by many. We are not informed why this time shows were only and via the radio facilities of JRR. JRR reports that BRI is now also on FM in South East Island. In the meantime BRI could have been relayed via Radio Cochiquiz in South America.

[C] **RADIO CAMOUFLAGE** was noted on 6200 via Radio Pandora Sun July 12th. Email: <cam@sandy.dunes>.

[C] **RADIO CITY** was putting out an odds show on 7460 Sun August 2nd. Address is (1).

[C] The 'other' one, **RADIO CITY FM**, now uses two Addresses. SW listeners must use (10) while all FM listeners can contact the station via P.O.Box 40045 Düsseldorf, Germany.

[C] **CRAZY WAVE RADIO** was heard on 6250 July 19th. CWR also participated in the massive Level 48 broadcast in August. Email: <crazywave@holland.com> or <C NOT use Box 41 1131 in D-55088 Mainz anyone!>

[C] **RADIO EAST COAST HOLLAND** is nowadays concentrating on 76 metres and was heard on 3825 with a phonon show June 27th. The same rig was also used Fri August 28th when a live rock show was aired with guest DJ Peter V. between 20:00-22:00 UTC. Latest news: Sun Sept. 20th in the morning hours RECH tested on 6290 kHz with approx. 100W. Signal quality was excellent, especially the modulation was very good. The 76 mhz has been modified making the station to broadcast on 48 metres as well. Address is POBox 683, 7900 AR in Hoogeveen.

[C] **EUROPEAN MUSIC RADIO** tested on 7442 June 29th. SW. Further tests were heard Monday August 10th (S276) and Sun Sept. 6th when EMR was active on 6200 (08 13 UTC) & 7300. During all tests its IDs were played. Sun Sept. 6th 6200 was excellent, it was very short. Address is Box 2727, 6049 ZG Herten. Latest news: EMR tested on 9355 in the morning hours of Sun September 20th. A fair signal (20W only) was heard in Germany.

[C] The **FARMERS FROM HOLLAND**, who SW pirate radio station, was raided twice. PTT officers tracked down the station on Sunday July 12th. Just after 12 UTC the Farmers were raided. Of course also some police men were present at the moment of the raid. Confiscated were a number of vital transmitter units being part of the Rohde & Schwarz 1 kW rig and the modulator. When a set of vital transmitters was taken to the cabinet. It looks like this raid was not planned, several other (AM & FM) stations were raided too that Sunday. The Farmers were just unlucky! Later that day the Farmers returned with low power but stayed on the next Sunday, the station was back on full power. The second raid took place 8 weeks later on Sunday Sept 6th at 15:28 Dutch local time. The transmitter was destroyed by the Farmers' crew (L), police and Dutch PTT. The cabinet for the transmitting units was not destroyed, so they can take a few spare ones and two hours later the station returned some at a lower level.

The big Rohde & Schwarz transmitter provides 1000W carrier power, including modulation the output is approx. 1.5 kW. Future plans include the use of a 10 kW Philips rig. The transmitter is ready to go on air, the only 'slight' problem is the Farmers need 380 Volts of power. They hope to solve the problem within a few months. The question is whether they are able to modulate the 10 kW rig. Good news for people who write to the station in the past two hours: all back me! In answer with the next few months. The Farmers have also been transmitting on a number of Wednesday evenings in August. Address: POBox 108 in 7200 AC Dalfsen, the Netherlands. Internet: <www.radiofrh.nl> or <frh@frh.nl>.

[C] October 10th/11th 1998 the **FREE RADIO INFO** is organizing a DX-meeting in Dusseldorf. Some people of the Radio Project One will be attending the meeting. More info via FRF, P.O.Box 620112, D-44207 Dortmund, Germany.

[C] **RADIO FLUX** seems to be a new appearance on the 7648 mhz from Holland. The announced address is: P.O.Box 203, NL-4190 GE Gekindem: September 2nd & 13th saw the station on 3825. Email: <flux@holland.nl>. Flux used to be a FM pirate who didn't know anything about the SW pirate scene. The station uses a 100W (L) controlled.

[C] **RADIO FREE HOLLAND** resumed tests on 76 metres: 3945 in June. Ever since the station has been putting out Sat night shows on 76 metres on the usual 1st & 3rd weekends. RFL's 30th Birthday took place between Friday 7th to Sunday 16th August. Each evening during that period RFL was on 3945, mostly with two signals. From Friday night 14th until Sunday night August 16th two more transmitters were added: 5805kHz and 5194kHz.

AM (in London). 5805 provided good reception, 819 was rather poor in the London area we were hit. Several RFL shows from the past were aired as well as guest appearances from former RFL pirates. RFL used to be one of London's first professional parties, starting in 1968 after Radio Caroline South and Nord were forced to cease operations on the North Sea. Through the years RFL has been broadcasting on FM and AM in London, with a rock format. Some of RFL's original crew members are currently to be heard on RFL SW. Credits for so many years of great fun radio! During the Bank Holiday weekend in the UK (last weekend August RFL was on air from Sat to Monday. The 5805 transmitter went 'being' on Saturday evening, but RFL returned to the air on Sunday afternoon. During his show Andy Walker announced he would be leaving the station at the end of August. Whether this is temporary or for good is unknown. Our guest transmitter Address is 10118, Kings Cross Road, London, W1G 6PL or RFL, P.O. Box 130, 92504, Rung, Cedex, France. Any Email reports are welcomed at: <RFLSW@bluewin.ch> The RFL web site address has been changed into:

> <http://193.63.182.100/gbhome/RFL.htm>

[C] **RADIO FREE WILLY** (1) was using the unusual freq of 6181 kHz Sun July 12th. Latest info morning 6200 was also activated.

SW addresses: SW addresses: SW addresses: SW

1- P.O.Box 220342/D-42373 WUPPERTAL/Germany

2- 14 Stone Row/COLEMAN/Co. Londonderry BT32 1EP/

Northem Island

4- P.O. Box 190/92504 RUEIL-CEDEX/France

5- P.O. Box 12001 PRESTON/Lancs PR2 6AS/England

6- P.O. Box 223/MERLIN/ Ontario N6P 1W0/Canada

9- 3481 Osth Road/CLANFELDT/Waterloo/Ontario N0B 0L1/

United Kingdom

10-SRS/Costa Porton 29/46254 YTTERRIE/Sweden

[C] IMR returned to the airwaves after being off air for quite some time. Sat July 11th August 28th 3925 was in use, Sept 8th IMR was on 6215 (not a good choice). Power seems to be 50W, at least during some of the times. Address is P.O. Box 1951, 72524 Walsen Rhein in Germany.

[C] The **JRRS** in Milan, Italy did change the schedule for Radio 512 and the freq as well. 3950 kHz is now in operation before 20:00 UTC. Elements that some of the IRRS output is suffering interference from Radio Budapest broadcasting on 3965 and Deutsche Welle on 3965. Radio Bermuda/Draek (Bermuda triangle, add-1) had its first show relayed by IRRS on September 12th. The programme contained rock music.

[C] **JOLY ROGER RADIO** is back on 6255 kHz after using 6245 for some time. BRI and 12507 RFL Hits are regularly relayed but also South American pirate radio station Cochiquiz. In return JRR was successfully relayed in Argentina via Radio Cochiquiz. A smaller 50W rig is now and then used on 6280 (LHH). Address: P.O. Box 39, Waterloo in Ireland.

[C] **RADIO TEAM KLUIZENAR** was active on 6200/6295 Sat Sept. 12th Sat. It is a joint venture of Dutch pirates Radio Boreas and Zierle No. who use these names for their medium wave activities. Interesting is the power which was used: no less than 0.5 kW! Add is P.O. Box 73, 7160 AD Nede in the Netherlands.

[C] **RADIO KORAK INT.** has been active almost every week during the Summer period. On the following dates RIK was on air with musical shows: July 6th, July 25th, Aug. 1st, 6th, 22nd, Sept. 5th & Sept. 12th. Most times take place on 3825, the odd one is on 3825. Address is Box 134, 3780 BC Voorhuizen in the Netherlands.

[C] **LASER PILOT** continues with weekly 75 & 48 mhz frequencies. Especially during 13th Sept. the 6219 power and mod reception on the continent. During nighttime 3630 kHz is used in parallel with the 48 mhz outfit. Daytime reception on the continent is only fair at the best. A number of times LHH has also been heard on 6235 via the transmitter of JRR in Ireland. July 10th saw the station on 6280 with SW. This is JRR's second SW outfit. LHH puts out a pop/rock format. Address (8).

[C] **LEVEL 48**, the European radio organization, was heard all over the August 12th/22nd weekend. Tests started on 22nd August on the continent. 3825 and 3825: Pcs were carried out by Radio Torsnaak and Radio 3825, both Dutch stations. Sat evening another 4 stations representing Level 48 were logged on 3825 kHz: Spaceman, Starshine, Boreahunter and Crazy Wave Radio. Most 76 mhz signals were heard in good quality. Sat morning CWR, Boreas, Speeding, Fusion, Laguna & Rising Star were logged in the 6280-6290 frequency range. Sun August 23rd saw no less than 10 stations operating under the Level 48 umbrella. The following frequencies were used that day: 6235, 6236 (both



RADIO CAROLINE

Radio Caroline RSL Broadcast covering the area around the Isle of Sheppey took place from June 14th - July 11th 1966. The live Caroline broadcasts from the *Ross Revenge* were rebroadcast on AM 1503 with apparently TV. Reception reports came in from countries such as Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. Jobs on board were Chris Kennedy, Stuart Russell, Brian Martin, Barry James, Seize Browner, Caroline Dutch representative, Jerry Wright & Johnny Rocco. Some of the broadcast was being used for the Wednesday evening satellite and SW programmes via the Astra channel 50 and 15200 kHz SW. The theme of the 28 day event was to recruit sufficient supporters to be able to buy blocks of satellite radio time when the free sample air time currently being provided by Merlin Communications comes to an end. These free broadcasts are taking place each Wednesday evening from 18:00 to 20:00 UK time with a power of 500 kW < www.radiocaroline.co.uk > During the August 14th/15th Satellite SW & Satellite Festival Caroline was heard worldwide on numerous SW frequencies. (see elsewhere).

The latest news is that Radio Caroline will be starting trials on a regular basis on satellite via EKR. Sun September 20th would see the first shows between 10:00 and 18:00 UTC but this was cancelled. We are uncertain what will happen in the upcoming weeks.

PIRATE SHIP ELECTRA PROJECT SCUTTLED

Another radio ship project has failed. According to a copy of a notice of a U.S. Marshall's sale in the U.S. District Court for the So. District of Georgia (Savannah Division), the "Offshore Radio Broadcast Station Tug Electra", an all welded steel, model low, capstan towboat fitted with a complete radio broadcast station, including radio log, was put up for sale for \$35,000 to the highest bidder on July 15 at 10:00 am by the U.S. Marshal. The ship ran into another boat on the very dawn, and there were some lawsuits involved. The preacher that was financing it ran out of money. Neither Scott nor Alan Wiener were on the ship when any of that happened, nor did they have any involvement with the problems that caused the Feds to come. They both got paid by the preacher for all the work they did, so, other than the fact that the ship they worked so hard on went to the sea, they both made out okay on the deal. Most people still were under the impression that both men were still involved. (Thanks to Anita McCormick, Doug Robertson & Chris Luchford for this info).

EUROADRO/ NEW OEM RADIO FORTS CD

This years EUROADRO 96 - the annual Offshore Echo's event taking place in Calise - was held on Saturday 4th July. Guests included Alan West who was on Radio Norfiesse International (RNI) during one of offshore radio's more dramatic moments, Martin Kayne who was on Radio Essex as Michael Cane, on Radio Caroline after the MCA and also on RNI. Martin was given as the winner of the 1996 Best of the Best in Showcases magazine, under his real name of Andy Clark. Frank Turner, historian and author of a number of books about the Thames Estuary sea forts. These forts later became home to the offshore stations Radio Slutz, City, Tower, Essex, Invicta, KING and 300.

Euroadro 96 also saw the launch of the new Offshore Echo's CD THE RADIO FORTS, which tells the story of the first based offshore radio stations. "The Radio Forts" is the new double CD from Offshore Echo's, telling the story of the first based offshore radio stations. Radio Slutz, City, Tower, Invicta, KING, 300, Essex, BEAMS and the story of Seelkew. Now on a double CD, with remastered, expanded and new content from original LP. There's new archiechs and new interviews, plus a 12 page photo booklet and colour covers. The Radio Forts CD is available now and costs £29.99 post free. To coincide with the CD's release, there is now a Radio Forts web site at

< <http://www.offshoreecho.co.uk/designations/radioforts.htm> >. For more information contact Offshore Echo's at P.O. Box 1514, London W7 2LL. UK Email < Chris_Ed@compuserve.com >.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Satellite and Shortwave Radio Festival

Mid July Merlin Network One, MNO, announced a 48 hour Radio Festival on the 14th and 15th August. The MNO Radio Festival was celebrating over 30 years of commercial radio in the UK. The Festival featured commercial stations of the past, those trying to get re-started and the pioneering stations of today. Included within the line-up of the MNO Radio Festival was the largest running UK commercial radio station - Radio Caroline. Caroline was joined by programme segments from Radio London, Radio Rock Network, European Klassik, KISS, short wave stations, Continental European and around the world on shortwave. MNO live Christopher England (who operated the innovative satellite radio station Eurocast (which broadcast in 1992/3) has been hired by Merlin Network One (MNO) Christopher will hold a multi-functional role at MNO with his primary being that of Studio Manager. Eric Wiltshire commented: "Chris brings even yet more commercial and satellite expertise to the MNO broadcast team."

"Merlin Network One needs people with multi-functional skills and following on from the appointment of Keith Lewis, Christopher will be a valued team member." Christopher and Keith will, along with another team member yet to be announced, share the day to day Studio Management duties with Christopher also having responsibilities for other areas of the MNO business.

More MNO news. Merlin Network One will launch a full time service to the world later this year. Tests from MNO can be heard (all times UK) from 6:00pm Wednesday through to 02:00 Thursday each week. For more information < www.mno.net > or Email < mno@radio.co.uk >

WBCQ STARTS TEST ON 7415 KHz

Last time (June) we informed you about Alan Wiener's new SW project. Thursday, September 17, 1998 an interesting announcement in the The New York Daily News under the title "Norfolk's showman starts station tests" starts a summary of the article with thanks to Anita Lewis McCormick. WBCQ, a brand new shortwave station based in Monticello, began broadcasting Tuesday night September 15th. According to Alan H. Wiener, the station's manager, the shortwave signal has so far been heard as far away as New Zealand. "I don't think we can get farther than that," said an excited Wiener during a telephone interview. Tuesday. He said Email and telephone calls have been flooding in from South America, Germany, and France as well. "It's beyond our wildest dreams," he said. WBCQ, which broadcasts on 7415 kHz (41 mhz) on the shortwave band, is billed as a station that is for everyone, with no particular agenda in mind. "It's a cornucopia of ideas," said Wiener. "We don't want to be like all the other talk-radio programs around the world. We're trying to make it as refreshing as possible." Most shortwave stations, he said, broadcast either government news or religious programs. "While WBCQ will soon be offering religious programs, the station is to be as varied as possible. "We're giving everything from right-wing conservatives to love, peace and understanding people," he said. "This is a free-speech radio station." The station is a commercial enterprise, which means that in order for programming to be broadcast, it must be paid for. "Anybody can broadcast a program, whether it's an hour of rock 'n' roll music, discussion about their national government or corruption in the courts. So far, the most popular programing, Wiener said, is his evening show that starts a lot with live from northern Maine. "Northern Maine is not like the rest of New England, or the southern part of the state or Massachusetts," he said, noting that much of the Email received so far has been to express an interest in the region. "We want to tell the rest of the world about the uniqueness of northern Maine and its beautiful lifestyle," he said. "People around the world are going to know that in the evening hours." For now, WBCQ is broadcasting from a small mobile home in Station Road in the town of Monticello, which has been used by radio station WREX-AM 730. That station, with which Wiener also is involved, does a simulcast talk-radio format with its sister station WEGP-AM 1390 in Presque Isle. Wiener said work began on the shortwave station in April and was finished last month. A new transmitter building has been built and a new antenna tower erected. The tower is 60 feet high and, according to Wiener, looks like a giant, 48-foot-tall TV roof antenna, except the elements that stick out of the top are 50-foot long as well. At the present time, the station goes on the air at about 8 pm or 9 pm and continues broadcasting for anywhere from four to nine hours. Wiener said as the schedule firms up, broadcasts will probably run for about six hours a day. The goal, he said, is to eventually get enough programming to be on the air from 9 am to 3 am the next day, every day. "It's a lot of fun," said Wiener. "It's been a real exciting week." The address for a GSI card is: Alan H. Wiener, 97 High Street, Monticello, ME 04943, U.S.A. WBCQ will have a web site at < <http://www.wbcq.com> >. The site is still under construction. So far they've put up a page of contact info for the station, a guest book, an old radio price and info guide, and a GREAT 2D graphic chatroom. You'll need to download some free software from <http://www.thepoke.com> before you use the graphic chat feature. It takes a low modulus, but it's worth the wait! Stay tuned to WBCQ-The Planet on 7415 MHz!

ISLE OF MAN LONG WAVE LICENCE

It's getting a pretty interesting story and started some 4 years ago. It all started as a story not really seriously taken by people within the radio industry. The story of the fight to establish a high power international radio station broadcasting on Longwave from the Isle of Man. In the early stage it was proposed to use 225 kHz. Important was that the BBC declared they were not interested to use 225 for their proposed News Service. The people behind the project - it later became The Isle of Man International Broadcasting Company (IMIBC) - based on the Isle of Man, a self-governing island, that their project was viable and that 225 kHz could be reassigned to the island. However, the UK Radio Authority decided they would need 225 because they were afraid another commercial Atlantic 252 kHz-like would be radiating powerful signals into the UK from outside its jurisdiction. In the end the RA said that they would not use 225. In the mean time however, the Isle of Man was looking at an ever better channel - 279 MHz. The IMIBC had a second idea - a second station they could operate in commercial broadcasts from the Island - Island Christian Broadcasters. They are active using numerous relatively low-powered pirate transmitters in the Irish Republic, and also beam into the UK as a powerful former Soviet MW transmitter. The next episode in this exciting story is the Isle of Man Government to open the frequency to bids. The IMIBC and UCB will be applying for a license and rumours are even a third group calling itself



"Radio Caroline" are joining the two others. It's not known if this is the official Radio Caroline group set up by Peter Moore. September 4th we were informed via a press release that the Isle of Man has been officially assigned a frequency for a high power long wave radio station. The Isle of Man International Broadcasting Company Ltd has confirmed that its application to operate the station includes several well-known names from the radio and TV world, including several offshore radio names. The team (whose identities are being kept secret to protect their current positions) have been assigned to the iMIBC's Chairman, Paul Rugg, whose own career has included working for several offshore radio stations in several countries, with offshore stations such as Radio Caroline, Laser 55FM and Channel 2000 and more recently in licensing matters with Classic FM and Virgin, two national UK channels. The formal assignment of 275 KHz to the Isle of Man marks the end of a four year battle by the Manx Company iMIBC with the British Government and an even longer one for the Isle of Man Government. It's now over thirty five years ago that the Isle of Man first asked for permission to license a high-powered radio station, but the authorities in Westminster always reacted with back claiming this would be unfair competition for UK-based radio stations. Four years ago the iMIBC Government decided that its own station (Manx Radio) should henceforth concentrate on serving only the Isle of Man. This opened a window of opportunity for iMIBC who offered to carry out the negotiations to obtain a frequency for the island and have lobbied UK politicians and Whitehall officials ever since. This has been a long and arduous process. European regulations dictate that a country cannot refuse permission for new broadcasters on economic grounds, and this was one other major points which iMIBC's legal team made very loudly. Raising nearly the funds to pay for a high-powered team of lawyers in London and Strasbourg resulted in 1996 London finally conceding and commenced the process of clearing a suitable frequency, which has culminated in 275 KHz Long Wave being assigned. While many have suggested that the right to use the airwaves, due to its low radio signal and susceptibility to interference, there is expected to be substantial interest from other media groups. So far, only iMIBC's Manx company formed in 1994 specifically to apply for the license, although two other UK-based applicants have also expressed an interest. "We've spent the last few years discussing the project with island politicians and officials and have already prepared a first class proposal", claims iMIBC's Chairman Paul Rugg. "Our line up includes several well-known presenters, including a major UK station, and a management team which includes some people well-known in Anorak circles. With the £10 million funding package being sourced from individuals and companies in the Isle of Man, England and the USA the project will be a truly international one, and Rugg has revealed that their plans include further outlets on short wave and satellite. "One of our investors is heavily involved in DAB and is keen to get us on air on that platform, if the cost can be reduced to just 500,000 Watts on Long Wave!" "There are several hurdles to be completed before the station can launch however. There will be a full debate on the proposals in the Isle of Man's Parliament, Tynwald, a thousand year old forum which has seen some interesting (to radio listeners) debates. In 1967, the plucky Isle of Man Government refused to apply the UK's Marine Offences Act, and Harold Wilson's Labour government resorted to getting the Queen to sign an "Order in Council", forcing the island, a Crown dependency, though independent of the UK and outside the European Union, to accept the law. Long Wave stations need a very tall structure; Atlantic 252's mast is 1000 feet tall and met with furious opposition from local residents and environmentalists are expected to oppose a huge mast being built on the ecologically sensitive island. "We have one or two new solutions to this problem", promises James. "Even, a Welshman lawyer who has been involved in a dozen radio projects and a renowned planning expert." The Isle of Man has completely different legislation to the UK, and offshore radio fans will know full well that it's not vital that an antenna is vertical. "The news of the frequency assignment has been welcomed on the Isle of Man with front page newspaper headlines and local stories on Manx Radio, the oldest commercial radio station in the British Isles. The Government's communications officials are expected to be getting the Queen to sign the final order assigned to the island. "We first discussed this with Rugg four years ago and he was certain he could defuse the many obstacles which have been put in the island's way, so with nothing to lose, the Minister let him go ahead. And he has come up with trumps, with half a million watts more powerful than any station in the UK except the BBC World Service." The Communications Commission of the Isle of Man Government confirmed the assignment of 275 KHz for use for a high power radio station, broadcasting from the Isle of Man or further afield. Contact: iMIBC, P.O. Box 275, Ramsey, IM9 4JT. Email: Rugg@broadcast.net Worldwide Broadcast Consultants, P.O. Box 12, Wiltbury, UK - HU10 7YT

Atlantic 252

Like July/early August longwave station Atlantic 252 started introducing changes to its music policy. Playlists include much more new music, and these tracks are being announced on air as "new music revolution".

By the way, Atlantic 252 has been changing its music format gradually in a bid to attract itself as a "finely, underground sounding" station. The current playlist of hits will be shifted in favour of new music and undiscovered tracks. The changes were heralded by Atlantic's new marketing controller, Alison Victory, who plans a £2.5 million paid advertising campaign in the UK once the changes are complete. As yet there is no news of any purchaser of CLT's 80% stake in the station.

New website EKR

Recently RadioWorks completed its first project for European Klassik Rock

by producing its new web site at < <http://www.dradioeurope.com> > containing a major section about Digital Audio Broadcasting. European Klassik Rock is the only independent radio station running a 24hr service. GfKnet news for Peter McFarlane lists the former Connor, Spare and Chatterbox 603 broadcaster Peter McFarlane is the latest person to join EKR. Peter McFarlane, better known as Kevin Turner to Caroline supporters, used to do the Broadcast Show on the Ross Rivington in the mid/late 80s. He left Caroline after the giant 50m tall antenna tower collapsed back in November 1987.

Carrey escapes from prison

Chris Carrey escaped from prison on Tuesday August 11th and according to a report in the Mirror newspaper, UK police are searching for him. He had been serving a four year sentence for piracy of BSkyB. The escape came ten days after a court in the UK dismissed an appeal for the sentence to be quashed. After having pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to defraud BSkyB in February, Carrey was jailed for four years. No doubt the news of the escape will upset those in BSkyB and News Datacom who had considered that the piracy of their system was stopped. The prison first escape was a low security "open prison". Most of the inmates are white collar criminals and inmates were trusted not to abscond. Carrey apparently took a break from his job in the stores telling wardens that he was going to take a walk. He then went to the prison farm with a potted plant apparently to get some compost for it. A while later he pulled out a small bag of soil and got the car left at high speed. Police were expecting Carrey to make his way to Spain. They are apparently watching the airports and seaports in the hope that they will catch him. According to the Mirror, Carrey was in the region of £2.5 million has been liquidated and sent abroad Chris Carrey escaped from prison on Tuesday and according to a report in the Mirror newspaper, UK police are searching for him. He had been serving a four year sentence for piracy of BSkyB. The escape came ten days after a court in the UK dismissed an appeal for the sentence to be quashed. After having pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to defraud BSkyB in February, Carrey was jailed for four years. No doubt the news of the escape will upset those in BSkyB and News Datacom who had considered that the piracy of their system was stopped. The prison first escape was a low security "open prison". Most of the inmates are white collar criminals and inmates were trusted not to abscond. Carrey apparently took a break from his job in the stores telling wardens that he was going to take a walk. He then went to the prison farm with a potted plant apparently to get some compost for it. A while later he pulled out a small bag of soil and got the car left at high speed. Police were expecting Carrey to make his way to Spain. They are apparently watching the airports and seaports in the hope that they will catch him. Once a pirate, always a pirate...

Roger Day

Roger Day is heading a team claiming that they are putting Mediscene back on the map as far as commercial radio is concerned. Med FM, an RSL, began broadcasting on Monday 21st September at 67.7 FM in the Isle of Man in a campaign to get a full-time local radio station for the county town, a campaign which originated in the 1970s. The new station is managed by Roger Day, the former Programme Director of Insects Radio from 1984 until 1992. He has teamed up with Paul Handwell, who programmed Mediscene Festival Radio in 1993 and who founded the County Town Radio campaign which ran from 1996-1997.

RSL London

Radio London returned with an RSL broadcast in the Harlow area July 4th/July 31st. The operation had no connections with the two previous Big L RSLs in the Summer of 1997 and December 1997. These were set up by EAP. The broadcasts in July came from landbased stations (pretty difficult to go offshore in Harlow) and were being operated by a local businessman Nick Jeffery. The London name and jingles were being used under licence from East Anglian Productions. It has also been suggested that Radio London programmes will be aired on the local radio station, but this has yet to be confirmed.

VTA AM tests

There has been an awful lot of speculation recently about a week of test transmissions on 1071AM, which was widely heard from Paris to Amsterdam and from London to Brussels. Because various popular offshore themes were played (the RINe theme, Crunchy Grands Sables etc.) several radio DXers/free radio people were very curious where these tests came from. The truth is these transmissions came from the France Telecom owned UK site in Northern France. Output power was varying between 10 and 40 kW. The tests have been done to prove to Belgium concerned TV channel, VTA, that reasonable coverage of Belgium can be made from that site. "VTA" (which some have called a pirate TV station as it began life by being uplinked from Brookmans Park by the BBC) have appointed former Radio M Amigo and Radio 7 main Tom Schipper as development manager to look at new opportunities to broadcast to Belgium. Schipper ran the highly successful Rhythme 7, a Belgian new national station in the 1980s. Belgium is a hotbed of radio intrigue and adventure at the moment - the founder of Radio 10 Gold, Jensen Sore, who sold his share for millions last year, is also looking at setting up a new station in Belgium called Radio Vlandia, with Peter Van Dam, one of Belgium's best known DJs. The 1071 tests continued until Monday 3rd August. French regulator, the CSA, are currently trying to prevent non-French nationals running



transmitters in France. The question is whether they win this battle. Monday August 31st at 09:00 CEST V44 tests were recommenced, this time on 1256 kHz. The new series of tests ended the following Friday September 4th, two days earlier as planned. After 5 days conclusions could be drawn making further tests superfluous. Time surprisingly came from a BBC World Service transmitting site in Oranienstein near Ipswich, Suffolk. This site is run by Merlin Communications. No less than 500 kW of power was being used during the tests providing crystal clear reception in Western Europe and beyond. According to Ton Schipper the EHP was 1.5 mW because of the strong antenna being directed to the east (highly directional towards continental Europe). No doubt the antenna was once used by Americans radiating their messages towards the Exile Bunker. Similar to the 1071 tests, non-stop mix was being played with taped announcements twice an hour. Despite the 1071 tests on French soil, V44 claimed not to have been applying for a French license. Thanks to Raul Ruisinga/RadioVise for the report.

RadioVise on the Internet

In the late 70s/early 80s the Dutch/Belgian RadioVise magazine was a quality radio magazine mainly focusing on free radio. One of its original founders, Jean-Luc Boeken is still involved with RadioVise returning in the world of radio with a quality website reporting about the Belgian, Dutch & Int. Media. Frequently the site is updated containing more about SW free radio, offshore, Caroline and much, much more. Articles are in English and Dutch <<http://radiovise.simpson.com>>

Dave Windsor

Quality Media News presenter TTS-Medipros reports that a new personality page is open, highlighting former Radio Caroline DJ DAVE WINDSOR. This page can be found via the TTS-Medipros index page <www.medipros.co.uk>

MADE IN HOLLAND

JUNE

You probably never heard of Radio Maastricht, a local radio station in the very Southern part of the Netherlands. The governmental watchdog 'Commissaris voor de Media' accuses the station not obeying the rules for local radio. A public local radio station has to spend 50% of its time on information about culture, arts, politics and religion. Radio Maastricht only reaches a ratio of 13%. This dispute is very interesting because the vast majority of Dutch local radio stations are for Radio Maastricht. The outcome certainly will have heavy consequences for all local stations. June 17 a hearing is held about the infringement of 103 FM and 7 AM frequencies to commercial regional stations. One of the applicants is the so-called Radio Caroline we reported about last time. September 1st the frequencies will be allocated. Fifty-seven stations are interested in one or more frequencies. Seven of these stations (like Reboeco radio, 8FM and HOT Radio) have joined together and published their own proposal for the assignment of frequencies. Not very remarkable, most frequencies will go to these seven stations. As a result a lot of the other applicants are filled with anger.

JULY

It's sun, sun, summertime and as a result there isn't any interesting radio news this month...

AUGUST

Again we can announce the coming birth of a new radio station. This time the name will be Radio Gouda. The station will be on cable in a small Western-part of the country first, but the people behind hope to get terrestrial frequencies later this year. The line up of presenters mainly consists of old-Vaencia jocks, like Ad Bourman, Chiel Montagne, Eddy Becker and Kipm Tonnig. The station will start broadcasting September 1st, aiming at people older than 45 (just like the presenters themselves).

Delta Radio, planning to broadcast on 171 Mhz long waves, has had to get permission to build its masts in the Eastern part of the country. As reported at an earlier stage massive protests of inhabitants of villages near the proposed transmitting site resulted in a negative outcome.

Now Delta reveals new plans: erecting two 400 meter high masts, some 25 miles off the Dutch/Belgian coast. Maybe it will be the fish who are going to protest against these plans this time.

Reports that the former Laser 558 ship Communicator is to be scrapped have been strongly denied by Arie Swerts, who caretakes the vessel on behalf of its owners. Herbert Visser reports "Reboeco (the company owning and operating the broadcasting facilities on board the vessel) has cleaned out the whole ship, checked the generators, transmitter, mast, etc. The Communicator therefore was off the air for a few days, and the relay of Q-Radio was taken over by the Nozema site in Lopik. Apparently the station

is seriously looking into the possibility to move the ship near Almere (near Amsterdam) and to abandon the train in western part of the country where the programs are coming from now. Q-Radio has the serious intention to move all broadcasting operations to the MV Communicator and thus entirely broadcast from the ship again. The reason why this hasn't happened so far, is because the organization is currently still dealing with the Dutch Ministry dealing with frequencies and planning permissions about the move. Thus, instead of an end to the offshore radio history, there'll be an increase of offshore radio history. The latest ratings in the Netherlands however, show once again that Q-Radio, despite their AM frequency on 1256 kHz, has a marketshare of 0.0 percent. Of the commercials, best station is Sky Radio with 14.4, Radio 10 Gold is 2nd with 9.5, Radio 538 is 3rd with 7.1 percent, and Radio Nieuwradio is currently the 4th commercial station with 6.7 percent. Radio Veronica has 4.1 percent marketshare and Anouk Classic Rock has 0.6 percent. These new ratings arrived yesterday and they reflect the time between 0700 and 2400 hours UTC."

SEPTEMBER

The 33 FM and 7 AM left-over-frequencies are assigned to commercial regional stations. Stations like Reboeco, 8 FM and HOT Radio are the great winners. They will cover large parts of the country from the beginning of 1999 onwards.

Dutch legal station to go offshore to escape planning laws

Delta Radio, a station licensed by the Dutch Government to broadcast on longwave, is to locate its transmitter in International Waters in order to bypass planning laws and environmental protests. Dutch radio expert Herbert Visser writes: "Funny things are happening around Delta 171, the Dutch longwave project (previously owned by multi-antenna specialist George Smeets). After the environmentalists started the campaign against the construction of a site containing four 300 meter high antenna towers and a 2 MW transmitter (with an output power of 2.5 MW ERP 1) in Kootwijk, somewhere in the middle of the Netherlands, the Delta management (managed by lawyers Clifford Chance, The Delta 171 headquarters have the same address as the Amsterdam office of this international law firm, and one of the Clifford Chance lawyers currently is acting president of Delta 171) decided to have the masts constructed in the North Sea and beam the signal towards the UK. However, a number of environmental pressure groups stood up, and started proceedings against the construction of this time two 400 meter masts and a 2 MW transmitter, claiming that these masts would kill thousands and thousands of birds, and that a radiation power of 2.5 MW on longwave, would most probably not be very good for the health of the fish in this area. And yes, the environmentalists' pressure groups can't wait until the construction of these masts for a very long time, according to Dutch law... So, the lawyers from the Dutch Radio Communications Agency (thus the Dutch Government) came up with an alternative !!! It has now been decided, to construct this tremendous transmitter site in INTERNATIONAL WATERS !!! This has already been confirmed by both the Dutch Government AND the Delta 171 organization.

The reason is, that environmentalists' pressure groups can start proceedings against anything happening outside Dutch jurisdiction area... and thus can't object against the station hitting the airwaves. Despite the fact that I definitely don't mind another radio station coming on to the airwaves... I'm afraid the environmentalists are right this time... I would personally not like to be involved with a radio station which is selling off tremendous amounts of back, let alone that I'm quite reluctant to live near a site, where a 2.5 MEGAWATT signal would be broadcasting from. I think that by the time that they get onto the airwaves (which should be in the course of next year) I'll stop eating fish which was caught in the North Sea. The Dutch Government lawyers and those from Clifford Chance are convinced that broadcasting from international waters would be legal in this case... I, however, am not sure about this... The Netherlands will be using its part of the Continental Shelf for something it can't be used for. And the station will definitely operate outside Dutch jurisdiction area. When the Dutch environmental laws are no longer in effect, no Dutch laws will be in effect there, so far as I know. Which also means that Delta 171 will be without any problem, advertise tobacco-ads, indecent material, whatever...". March 1999 could face the start of building the antenna towers.

Sources: SRS News, Mark Brown, Herbert Visser, Paul Ruising, Chris O'Brien, Martien Boonstra, RadioVise, Hips Kink, NewRadio, TTS mail !!!

Remember FRS-Holland is on SEP 27th and other October 18th or 25th (or both) to celebrate the 10th anniversary of our Free Radio like it is meant to be on 48, 41 and 25 meters (11470 kHz/1.535).

[R] Saturday August 5th 1999 RADIO 10 GOLD broadcasted a special offshore tribute programme commemorating former pirates Radio Veronica and Radio Netherlands Int. At the same time the station celebrated its 10th birthday. Programmes were aired from the MV Fortune which sailed along the Dutch coast from Scheveningen to Umuiden. On board several former offshore jocks were taking part in this live hour live broadcast between 10:00-15:00 hours. Five hours of nostalgia with memories, anecdotes, interviews and telephone calls with former offshore staff, the music from the 60s and 70s and of course numerous programme extracts from the heydays of Veronica and RNL. FRS Sales Productions offers these 5 hours in the best quality you can imagine (FM stereo) for only DM 40.00/- £ 12.50 - . If you order less than 5 hours, you pay DM 10.00/- £ 3.25 per hour.

Payments are accepted as cash, by Eurocheque or by I.M.G. No other foreign cheques please! Eurocheques must be written out in either Dutch/German or German Marks. Do not forget your bank number and signature, otherwise we cannot exchange your cheque. You may send Dutch, English, German, Italian, USA or French banknotes. Make sure it's the equivalent of the prices listed above. All prices include postage & packing. Address: P.O.Box 2727, 6049 ZG Herten, the Netherlands.